

**Brief on the Conservation Plan for Archaeological Features
Discovered at the Construction Works Area of the To Kwa Wan Station
of the Shatin to Central Link – Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section**

BACKGROUND

Further to the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) special meeting on 20 November 2014, site visit on 26 November 2014 and the AAB meeting on 4 December 2014, a further update on the conservation plan for the archaeological features discovered at the construction works area of the To Kwa Wan Station of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) is provided below for Members' information.

**CONSERVATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES
UNEARTHED**

2. Members were given a comprehensive account of the archaeological discoveries at the To Kwa Wan Station works site via AAB Board Papers AAB/45/2013-14 and AAB/48/2013-14. While as many as possible of the archaeological features uncovered, including two stone wells (i.e. 'Well J1' and 'Well J5') with higher heritage value, will be preserved in-situ, the AAB discussed and recommended at its meeting on 4 December 2014 the conservation options for the two archaeological features, namely an ancient well ('Well J2') together with the associated 20th century water channel, and a stone structure situated at the southern end of the works site of the adit connecting to Pak Tai Street, as follows-

Well J2 and Water Channel

3. At the meeting held on 4 December 2014, it was concluded that Option 1, which is to dismantle Well J2 and the water channel by hand and reassemble them after the completion of the construction works of the To Kwa Wan Station, would be the preferred option as it allows flexibility in the future display and interpretation of the well, and from an archaeological standpoint, dismantling Well J2 and the subsequent dissection will enable us to better understand the construction method of ancient well dated to the Song-Yuan

period. Nevertheless, it was recommended that flexibility should be allowed when reassembling the Well J2 at its original position.

Stone Structure at Adit C

4. Regarding the stone structure dated to the Song-Yuan period, the meeting on 4 December 2014 also concluded that Option 1, i.e. to preserve it in-situ, would be preferable since there is no urgency to remove the stone structure for the time being with reference to the proposed pedestrian crossing facilities at Sung Wong Toi Road to facilitate the pedestrian flow from Pak Tai Street to the To Kwa Wan Station.

THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION

5. Having considered the construction risk, impact to station design and heritage impact as well as the recommendations of the AAB, the Antiquities Authority announced on 8 December 2014 that the Government decided to accept the AAB's recommended conservation option for Well J2 and the water channel and would allow flexibility on how to reassemble them to increase the education value, while the stone structure concerned would be preserved in-situ for the time being as per AAB's advice.

6. The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) will continue to closely monitor the recording and the dismantling works of Well J2 and the water channel, as well as other conservation works on the remnants of the archaeological features uncovered at the To Kwa Wan Station works site. The AMO will report to the AAB if there is any update on this project.

7. The AAB will be consulted on the display and interpretation plan for the remnants of the archaeological features, including Well J2 and the water channel, at a later stage.